

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8.

Please add new claims 9-21 as follows:

-9.

A multiblade lawnmower, comprising:

a mower deck comprising a top wall, a front wall, a back wall, and first and second side walls defining a downwardly directed opening;

each of said front wall, said back wall, and said opposite side walls having interior and exterior surfaces;

said first side wall having a discharge opening formed therein;

said discharge opening having rearward and forward ends;

means operatively connected to said mower deck for moving said mower deck along the ground;

a plurality of cutting blades rotatably disposed within said mower deck;

power means operatively connected to said cutting blades for causing the rotation of each of said cutting blades;

and a first flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly from the interior surface of said top wall between said cutting blades and said front wall;

said first flow control baffle extending substantially continuously from a first location adjacent the interior surface of said second side wall to a second location adjacent the interior surface of said first side wall and adjacent the forward end of said discharge opening.--

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-10.

5 The multiblade lawnmower of claim 9 wherein a second flow control baffle is positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly from the interior surface of said top wall between said cutting blades and said back wall; said second flow control baffle including a plurality of semi-circular baffle portions, each of said semi-circular baffle portions being positioned adjacent one of said cutting blades; said first and second flow control baffles defining a plurality of openings which are positioned between adjacent cutting blades.--

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-11.

15 The multiblade lawnmower of claim 9 wherein first, second and third cutting blades are disposed within said mower deck; said first cutting blade being disposed adjacent said second side wall; said third cutting blade being disposed adjacent said first side wall; said second cutting blade being disposed between said first and third cutting blades and having its rotational axis disposed forwardly of the rotational axes of said first and third cutting blades; and wherein said first flow control baffle includes a first semi-circular baffle portion which partially extends around said first cutting blade; said first semi-circular baffle portion having first and second ends, a first substantially straight baffle portion which extends from said second end of said first semi-circular baffle portion and which has first and second ends and which extends towards said second cutting blade; a second semi-circular baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of said first substantially straight baffle portion and which partially embraces said second cutting blade; a second substantially straight baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of said second semi-circular baffle portion towards said third cutting blade; a third semi-circular baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of said

1 second substantially straight baffle portion and partially extending around said third
cutting blade; and a third substantially straight baffle portion, having first and second
ends, extending from said second end of said third semi-circular baffle portion towards
said discharge opening.--

5 --12.

The multiblade lawnmower of claim 11 wherein said first substantially straight
baffle portion directs grass cuttings from said first cutting blade towards said second
cutting blade between said second semi-circular baffle portion and the rotational axis of
said second cutting blade; said second substantially straight baffle portion directing
grass cuttings from said second cutting blade between said third semi-circular baffle
10 portion and the rotational axis of said third cutting blade.--

--13.

The multiblade lawnmower of claim 10 wherein first, second and third cutting
blades are disposed within said mower deck; said first cutting blade being disposed
adjacent said second side wall; said third cutting blade being disposed adjacent said
15 first side wall; said second cutting blade being disposed between said first and third
cutting blades and having its rotational axis disposed forwardly of the rotational axes of
said first and third cutting blades and wherein said first flow control baffle includes a
first semi-circular baffle portion which partially extends around said first cutting blade;
said first semi-circular baffle portion having first and second ends, a first substantially
20 straight baffle portion which extends from said second end of said first semi-circular
baffle portion and which has first and second ends and which extends towards said
second cutting blade; a second semi-circular baffle portion, having first and second
ends, extending from said second end of said first substantially straight baffle portion
and which partially embraces said second cutting blade; a second substantially straight

1 baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of said
second semi-circular baffle portion towards said third cutting blade; a third semi-circular
baffle portion, having first and second ends, extending from said second end of said
second substantially straight baffle portion and partially extending around said third
cutting blade; and a third substantially straight baffle portion, having first and second
5 ends, extending from said second end of said third semi-circular baffle portion towards
said discharge opening.--

--14.

The multiblade lawnmower of claim 13 wherein said first substantially straight
baffle portion directs grass cuttings from said first cutting blade towards said second
cutting blade between said second semi-circular baffle portion and the rotational axis of
said second cutting blade; said second substantially straight baffle portion directing
grass cuttings from said second cutting blade between said third semi-circular baffle
portion and the rotational axis of said third cutting blade.--

--15.

15 A riding lawnmower, comprising:
a frame means having rearward and forward ends and opposite sides;
first and second drive wheels rotatably mounted on said frame means at the opposite
sides thereof;
an operator's station provided on said frame means forwardly of the rearward end
20 thereof;
a mower deck supported by said frame means at the forward end thereof;
said mower deck comprising a top wall, a front wall, a back wall, and first and second
side walls defining a downwardly directed opening;
said top wall having top and bottom surfaces;

1 a plurality of cutting blades rotatably disposed within said mower deck;
each of said cutting blades having a rotatable spindle extending upwardly through said
top wall;
each of said spindles having a pulley mounted above said top wall;
5 said frame means having an engine support deck provided thereon at the rearward end
thereof;
said engine support deck being disposed in a plane closely adjacent the rotational axes
of said first and second drive wheels;
a first, vertically disposed shaft rotatably mounted in said mower deck at the rearward
10 end thereof and having an upper end positioned above said top wall of said
mower deck;
an upper pulley mounted on said upper end of said first shaft above said top wall of
said mower deck for rotation with said first shaft;
a lower pulley mounted on said first shaft, for rotation therewith, below said upper
15 pulley;
said lower pulley being substantially disposed in the same plane as said top wall of
said mower deck;
a first belt means interconnecting said upper pulley with the pulleys on said spindles;
an engine mounted on said engine deck and having a horizontally disposed, rearwardly
20 extending, rotatable drive shaft;
a drive pulley mounted on said rearwardly extending drive shaft;
first and second idler pulleys rotatably mounted on said frame means about a
horizontal axis which is substantially transverse with respect to the rotational
axis of said engine drive shaft;

1 and a belt means extending around said drive pulley, said idler pulleys, and said lower
pulleys for supplying driving power to said cutting blades.--

--16.

5 The riding lawnmower of claim 15 wherein said top wall of said mower deck has
an opening formed in its rearward end which rotatably receives said lower pulley and
which at least partially receives said belt means extending from said drive pulley.--

--17.

10 The riding lawn mower of claim 16 wherein said first and second drive wheels
have first and second hydraulic motors connected thereto for driving said first and
second drive wheels; a hydraulic pump means operatively connected to said hydraulic
motors; said engine having a horizontally disposed, forwardly extending driving shaft;
and poly-V-drive belt means operatively coupling said forwardly extending drive shaft to
said hydraulic pump means for operating the same.--

--18.

15 A riding lawnmower, comprising:

a frame means having rearward and forward ends and opposite sides;
first and second drive wheels rotatably mounted on said frame means;
an operator's station provided on said frame means;
a caster wheel assembly at the forward end of said frame means;
a mower deck supported by said frame means at the forward end thereof;
20 said mower deck being selectively vertically movably mounted on said frame means
and being movable from a lower position to an upper position;
means supporting said mower deck from said frame means comprising a manually
operated, movable linkage means mounted on said frame means and a flexible
chain means interconnecting said linkage means and said mower deck;

1 an elongated handle connected to said linkage means and being selectively pivotally
movable from a lower position wherein said mower deck is in its said lower
position with respect to said frame means, to an upper position wherein said
mower deck is in its said upper position with respect to said frame means;
5 an arcuate frame means, having upper and lower ends, positioned adjacent said
handle and having a plurality of spaced-apart openings formed therein;
a selectively removable pin means extending through one of said openings, below said
handle and in the movable path thereof for selectively limiting the lowermost
position to which said handle may be moved to limit the downward movement of
10 said mower deck with respect to said frame means;
and means on said upper end of said arcuate frame means for selectively maintaining
said handle in its said upper position so that said mower deck is maintained in
its said upper position with respect to said frame means.--

--19.

15 The riding lawn mower of claim 18 wherein said arcuate frame means comprises
a pair of spaced-apart arcuate frame members, each of said arcuate frame members
having a plurality of said spaced-apart openings formed therein; said handle being
selectively movably positioned between said arcuate frame members; said means on
said upper end of said arcuate frame means for selectively maintaining said handle in
its said upper position comprising a laterally offset recessed portion on one of said
20 arcuate frame members.--

--20.

A lawnmower, comprising:
a frame means having rearward and forward ends and opposite sides;

1 first and second drive wheels rotatably mounted on said frame means at the opposite
sides thereof;

a mower deck supported by said frame means at the forward end thereof and having a
top wall;

5 a plurality of cutting blades rotatably disposed within said mower deck;

each of said cutting blades having a rotatably spindle extending upwardly through said
top wall of said mower deck;

each of said rotatably spindles having a pulley mounted thereon, above said top wall;

10 first and second hydraulic drive motors operatively connected to said first and second
drive wheels, respectively;

first and second hydraulic pumps mounted on said frame means which are operatively
connected to said first and second hydraulic drive motors, respectively;

15 an engine mounted on said frame means rearwardly of said hydraulic pumps and
having a horizontally disposed, rearwardly extending, rotatable drive shaft, said
engine also having a horizontally disposed, forwardly extending, rotatable drive
shaft;

said drive shafts each having a drive pulley mounted thereon;

each of said hydraulic pumps having a rotatable drive shaft extending horizontally
rearwardly therefrom which has a pulley mounted thereon;

20 an endless belt means extending around said drive pulley on said forwardly extending
drive shaft of said engine and said pulleys on said hydraulic pumps whereby the
drive shafts of said hydraulic pumps are rotated in the same direction;

and a belt means extending around said drive pulley on said rearwardly extending drive
shaft of said engine and being operatively interconnected to said pulleys on said
spindles to rotate said cutting blades.—

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-21.

A multiblade lawnmower, comprising:

a mower deck comprising a top wall, a front wall, and first and second side walls defining a downwardly directed opening;

each of said front wall and said opposite side walls having interior and exterior surfaces;

said first side wall having a discharge opening formed therein;

said discharge opening having rearward and forward ends;

means operatively connected to said mower deck for moving said mower deck along the ground;

a plurality of cutting blades rotatably disposed within said mower deck;

power means operatively connected to said cutting blades for causing the rotation of each of said cutting blades;

a first flow control baffle positioned in said mower deck which extends downwardly from the interior surface of said top wall between said cutting blades and said front wall;

said first flow control baffle extending substantially continuously from a first location adjacent the interior surface of said second side wall to a second location adjacent the interior surface of said first side wall and adjacent the forward end of said discharge opening;

and a second flow control baffle extending downwardly from said top wall rearwardly of said cutting blades, said second flow control baffle including a plurality of semi-circular baffle portions, each of said semi-circular baffle portions being positioned adjacent one of said cutting blades; said first and second flow control